

18th February, 2021

Our ref: EECL2021-338/L

The Bills Committee on Waste Disposal  
(Charging for Municipal Solid Waste)  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
*Attn: Chairman- The Hon Frankie Yick Chi-ming SBS, JP*

**Subject: Support on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging Scheme**

Dear Hon Yick,

Eco Enrich, as one of the active members participated in waste management industry in Hong Kong, we are delighted to see that Charging of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is back on the table again. Our group is a professional services firm headquartered in Hong Kong which provides engineering, planning, consulting and resources management services for sustainable aspects of the built environment in Asia.

With our root in recycling field for over 40 years, we have the privilege to work at the frontline having direct dialogues with stakeholders from residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Recently our firm has been awarded the Contract for Collection and Recycling Services of Paper Recyclable Materials. Serving as a government contractor, such identity is an important milestone to us, we also see this as a profound acknowledgement on our skillset in sustainable supply chain management. On behalf of the individuals and bodies that we are representing, we would like to take this chance to show support to this long-awaited scheme which is expected to help Hong Kong getting back on track and to work towards the waste reduction goals set forth in the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" and "Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035".

There is no doubt that MSW charging is a complicated and challenging issue that raises many questions and constraints, but if we look closer to what other major cities have achieved over the past years, waste charging has been effective. Statistics have shown that with presence of MSW charging, some cities waste disposal rate per capita reduced up to 65%-74%. What we should do in Hong Kong is to make reference to other Asian cities' success stories, we improvise and implement our very own version of MSW charging scheme that suits our city. The spirit of introducing MSW charging scheme is to incentivise people to change their waste management behaviour. Without such scheme people would only do what is convenient, as people are not bound to commit to waste reduction. As covered in many articles and presses explaining why Hong Kong needs MSW charging scheme, the demand from public for a new way to handle our waste is not hard to notice.

With this in mind, the preparedness of the community for this "Pay As You Throw" policy is still worth our attention. Consumers and corporates had been having misconception about waste handling and recycling as they were never billed for what they disposed of, on the contrary, they were paid more as they generated more waste, this is fundamentally wrong. To encourage and to assist the public adapting the new scheme, the Government is suggested to have a comprehensive governance policy and monitoring measures in place to prevent negative situational behaviour such as illegal disposal.

As Polluter Pays Principle applies, waste producer should prefer recycling to disposal to landfill, the first thing we can foresee would be quick boost in supply of materials into the recycling stream. To handle the increased quantity of recyclable materials effectively and responsibly, it requires a more vibrant local recycling network.

While some professional bodies presume that with the influence from MSW charging scheme, volume of recyclables grows hence the recyclable industry expected to bloom and to benefit from it. In reality, we believe some industrial upgrades would

have to happen first in order to get the recycling system ready for MSW charging scheme launch.

Down the road, we anticipate that public would expect more transparency from recycling operators to disclose how recyclables are treated. More importantly, with increasing operating costs and higher standard on environmental, health and safety requirement, recycling business owners are expected to increase their extent of capital investment to ensure business activities are in compliance with requirements. Put simply, introduction of MSW charging scheme would raise the bar for the waste management sector, making the industry more professional and eventually more sustainable. In this regard, we expect to see the Government and the industry would work jointly to upgrade the recycling network as a whole.

Hong Kong has come a long way in terms of public education and awareness on waste reduction in general, credits to the extensive efforts made by the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department. To convert the preparation work being done into a viable policy that can transform the waste handling in Hong Kong for good, we need the MSW charging scheme, and we need it now. Learning from the previous setback, we hope MSW charging scheme would be prioritised in the upcoming Legislative Council agenda to kick start a new chapter for our next generation.

Yours faithfully,

**Eco Enrich Company Limited**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jhonny Leung Huang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jhonny Leung Huang  
Executive Director